

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

It is especially important to remember that the number of channels, stations, programs, and so on, does NOT correlate with the diversity of viewpoints so central to American democracy. 151 TV channels is great, but not when they all have to please the same 6 bosses.

Especially in the news media, industry consolidation has led to outright gutting of newsrooms in an effort to streamline production, create economies of scale, and boost profit margins (from 10 to 30%, in the case of many Gannet papers). Please do what you can to limit further consolidation and, better yet, restore diverse, local ownership.

I urge you to rediscover the FCC's role as a check and balance to the interests of Wall Street. You are our strongest voice. Thanks for your time and consideration.